

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A push pin device comprising:
a pin having a tip; and
an outer member coupled to and extending at least partially around said pin, wherein said tip of said pin is retracted inside of said outer member when said outer member is uncompressed, and wherein said tip of said pin is extended outside of said outer member when said outer member is compressed.
2. The push pin device of claim 1 wherein said outer member provides an opposing force when said pin is extended.
3. The push pin device of claim 1 wherein said outer member includes an opening through which said pin passes when said outer member is compressed.
4. The push pin device of claim 1 wherein said outer member is elastically deformable.
5. The push pin device of claim 1 wherein said pin extends from a first portion of said outer member toward a second portion of said outer member, and wherein said first portion of said outer member contacts said second portion of said outer member when said outer member is compressed such that said second portion applies an opposing force against said first portion when said pin is extended.

6. The push pin device of claim 1 wherein said outer member forms a loop around said pin.

7. The push pin device of claim 6 further comprising a grasping member, wherein said pin extends from said grasping member.

8. The push pin device of claim 7 wherein said grasping member is attached to a first portion of said outer member, and wherein said first portion of said outer member engages a second portion opposite said first portion when said pin is extended such that said second portion of said outer member applies an opposing force against said first portion.

9. The push pin device of claim 8 wherein said outer member includes protruding portions on each side of said second portion.

10. The push pin device of claim 1 wherein said outer member includes at least one hinge point on at least one side portion such that said outer member bends at said hinge point as said pin is compressed.

11. The push pin device of claim 7 wherein said grasping member has a generally cylindrical shape.

12. A push pin device comprising:

a pin having a tip; and

an outer member coupled to and extending at least partially around said pin, wherein said pin extends from a first portion of said outer member toward a second portion of said outer member, and wherein said first portion of said outer member contacts said second portion of said outer member when said outer member is compressed such that said second portion applies an opposing force against said first portion when said pin is extended.

13. The push pin device of claim 12 wherein said outer member includes an opening through which said pin passes when said outer member is compressed.

14. The push pin device of claim 12 wherein said outer member is elastically deformable.

15. The push pin device of claim 12 wherein said outer member forms a loop around said pin.

16. The push pin device of claim 15 wherein said outer member includes hinge points at each side portion such that said outer member bends at said hinge points as said pin is compressed.

17. The push pin device of claim 12 further comprising a grasping member, wherein said pin extends from said grasping member.

18. The push pin device of claim 16 wherein said grasping member has a generally cylindrical shape.

19. The push pin device of claim 12 wherein said outer member includes protruding portions on each side of said second portion.